CLAIMS AS AMENEDED

1. (Previously Presented) A print ordering method used in a print ordering system comprising a server for receiving an order for a print of image data and a user terminal which is connected to the server via a network and used for placing the order for the print of the image data, the print ordering method comprising the steps of:

accepting transfer of the image data to the server and storing the image data in the server regardless of whether or not the order is placed at the time of the transfer of the image data;

receiving the order for the print of the image data stored in the server after the image data are stored in the server in the case where the order was not placed at the time of the transfer of the image data; and

displaying on the user terminal a list of the image data stored in the server at the time the order for the print is placed if the order is not placed at the time the image data are transferred,

wherein the server is adapted to perform the steps of:

setting a predetermined storage period of the image data;

displaying the predetermined storage period on the user terminal; and

extending the predetermined storage period for the image data for which the order was placed,

wherein the step of extending the predetermined storage period by the server is initiated by the step of receiving the order for the print of the image data.

2. (Original) A print ordering method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the step of accepting and storing the image data is the step of accepting and storing the image data at the time the order is received if the order is placed at the time the image data are transferred.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A print ordering method as defined in Claim 1 or 2, further comprising the step of deleting the image data from the server after the predetermined storage period has elapsed since the image data were put into storage.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A print ordering method as defined in Claim 1, wherein if the order for the print of the image data is an order for a postcard which has seasonality, further comprising the step of setting the predetermined storage period of the image data to a period corresponding to a content of the postcard.

8. (Previously Presented) A print ordering system comprising:

a server adapted to receive an order for a print of image data transferred by a user, and

a user terminal connected to the server via a network and capable of placing an order for the print of the image data,

wherein the server is adapted to store the image data transferred thereto regardless of whether or not the order is placed at the time of transfer of the image data, and to receive the order for the print regarding the image data stored therein after the image data are stored therein in the case where the order was not placed at the time of the transfer of the image data,

wherein the server is further adapted to display on the user terminal a list of the image data stored therein at the time the order is placed if the order is not placed at the time the image data are transferred,

to set predetermined storage period of the image data and to display the predetermined storage period on the user terminal; and

to extend the predetermined storage period for the image data for which the order was placed.

9. (Previously Presented) A print ordering system as defined in Claim 8, wherein the server is adapted to store the image data at the time the order is received by the server if the order is placed regarding the image data at the time the image data are transferred.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A print ordering system as defined in Claim 8, wherein the server is adapted to delete the image data after the predetermined storage period has elapsed since the image data were put into storage in the server.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A print ordering system as defined in Claim 8, wherein if the order for the print of the image data is an order for a postcard which has seasonality, the predetermined storage period of the image data is set to a period corresponding to a content of the postcard.

15. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program to cause a computer to execute a print ordering method used in a print ordering system, the print ordering system comprising a server for receiving an order for a print of image data and a user terminal which is connected to the server via a network and used for placing the order for the print of the image data, the program comprising the procedures of:

accepting transfer of the image data to the server and storing the image data in the server regardless of whether or not the order is placed at the time of the transfer of the image data;

receiving the order for the print of the image data stored in the server after the image data are stored in the server in the case where the order was not placed at the time of the transfer of the image data; and

displaying on the user terminal a list of the image data stored in the server at the time the order for the print is placed if the order is not placed at the time the image data are transferred, the program causing the server to perform the procedures of:

setting a predetermined storage period of the image data;

displaying the predetermined storage period on the user terminal; and

extending the predetermined storage period for the image data for which the order was placed.

16. (Original) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 15, wherein the procedure of accepting and storing the image data is the procedure of accepting and storing the image data at the time the order is received if the order is placed at the time the image data are transferred.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 15 or 16, the program further comprising the procedure of deleting the image data from the server after the predetermined storage period has elapsed since the image data were put into storage.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 22, the method further comprising the procedure of displaying the predetermined storage period on the user terminal.

21. (Original) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 15, if the order for the print of the image data is an order for a postcard which has seasonality, the program further comprising the procedure of setting the predetermined storage period of the image data to a period corresponding to a content of the postcard.

22. (Previously Presented) A print ordering method used in a print ordering system comprising a server for receiving an order for a print of image data and a user terminal which is connected to the server via a network and used for placing the order for the print of the image data, the print ordering method comprising the steps of:

accepting transfer of the image data to the server and storing the image data in the server regardless of whether or not the order is placed at the time of the transfer of the image data;

receiving the order for the print of the image data stored in the server after the image data are stored in the server in the case where the order was not placed at the time of the transfer of the image data;

determining a time of day when communications costs are lower than at other times of day;

performing transfer of the image data from the user terminal to the server during the time of day when communications costs are lower; and

writing a predetermined storage period of the image data in tag information of the image data, the server performing the step of:

extending the predetermined storage period for the image data for which the order was placed.

23. (Previously Presented) A print ordering system as defined in Claim 8, wherein the server is part of a print order reception center which also includes a data base directory and a printer.

24. (New) A print ordering method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the step of extending the predetermined storage period by the server is initiated by the step of receiving the order for the print of the image data.

25. (New) A print ordering system as defined in Claim 8, wherein the server is further adapted to extend the predetermined storage period upon receipt of the order for the print of the image data.

26. (New) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 15, wherein the step of extending the predetermined storage period by the server is initiated by the step of receiving the order for the print of the image data.

27. (New) A print ordering method as defined in Claim 22, wherein the step of extending the predetermined storage period by the server is initiated by the step of receiving the order for the print of the image data.

28. (New) A print ordering method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the step of extending the predetermined storage period for the image data causes the server to perform a subsequent step of:

writing a message to be displayed on the user terminal containing information that the predetermined storage period has been extended by the server.

29. (New) A print ordering system as defined in Claim 8, wherein the server is further adapted to write a message to be displayed on the user terminal containing information that the predetermined storage period has been extended by the server upon receipt of the order for the print of the image data.

30. (New) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 15, wherein the step of extending the predetermined storage period for the image data causes the server to perform a subsequent further step of:

writing a message to be displayed on the user terminal containing information that the predetermined storage period has been extended by the server.

31. (New) A print ordering method as defined in Claim 22, wherein the step of receiving the order for the print of the image data stored in the server causes the server to perform a subsequent step of:

writing a message to be displayed on the user terminal containing information that the predetermined storage period has been extended by the server.